

# Uralla Wordsworth

Published by Uralla Wordsworth Incorporated

Uralla's FREE Fortnightly Newspaper

Established 2018 Issue 79, 27 December 2021 Estimated circulation: 1,000

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## Deputy Mayor Cr Crouch Is Appointed

### Uralla Shire's new Mayor and Councillors take office

It's been a race to the finish line as election results are officially declared for Uralla Shire Council and councillors meet today, on Christmas Eve, to take their oath or affirmation.

While Robert Bell quickly came out in front as the popularly elected Mayor, the community has been excitedly watching the count as postal votes and preferences are distributed and the final line-up is formed.

The new representatives are, from WARD A:

- Cr Bruce McMullen
- Cr Tom O'Connor
- Cr Lone Petrov
- Cr Tara Toomey

From WARD B:

- Cr Tim Bower
- Cr Sarah Burrows
- Cr Bob Crouch
- Cr Leanne Doran

Councillors met this morning to hold their inaugural Ordinary Meeting of Council, and to take their oath or affirmation of office. Council also voted to appoint Cr Crouch as Deputy Mayor.

"I'm honoured to take the leadership role in the new council for Uralla Shire," said Mayor Bell, who joins council for a second term, having been elected as councillor at the last elections held in 2016.

"I'm joined by a group of dedicated, community-minded councillors who bring a range of experiences and insights with them into the role," Mayor Bell said.



Mayor Robert Bell and Deputy Mayor Bob Crouch

Of the eight other representatives who make up Uralla Shire's new Council body, Cr Crouch, Cr Toomey and Cr O'Connor all held roles in the former council. Cr Doran (previously known as Cr Cooper) served on Council between 2012 – 2016. Cr Bower, Cr Burrows, and Cr Petrov will be new to the role.

"I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all those councillors here today who have put their hand up to be part of the team to shape the future of Uralla Shire," said General Manager Kate Jessep.

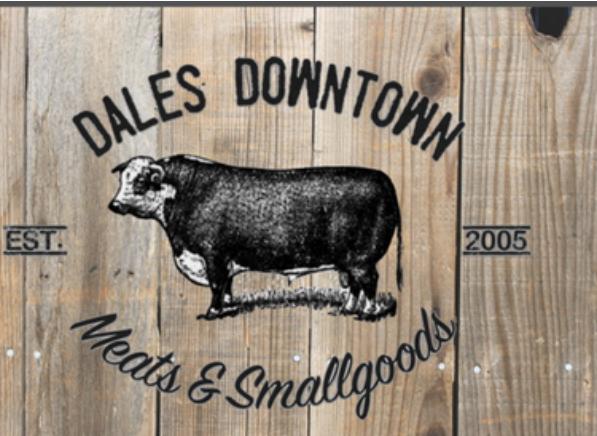
"And to the other candidates who weren't successful in gaining a place in this council, I congratulate you for making it as close a result as it was – and perhaps we'll see you at the next election."

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**Robert Bell was elected to Uralla Shire Council in September 2016 and has served one term as Deputy Mayor. He was previously Director of Engineering for Uralla Shire, lives in town, and has a grazing block at Kentucky. In his regular column, Mayor Bell gives a personal view of some of the more important matters concerning Council and ratepayers in recent weeks.**

Hopefully everyone has had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. The new Council will have had its first meeting. The new group brings an incredible range of skills and experience. The first challenge will be to form a Finance Advisory Committee to critically review our current financial position. The commitment of all the new Councillors is to restore the budget position which has a current estimated unrestricted cash reserve of zero by June. This must see a reduction in overheads, not services, for the General Fund. Our number One performance measure will be balancing the budget.

Following discussions between Council and the Uralla Business Chamber in relation to any future planned upgrade of Bridge Street, I am committed to seeking endorsement from all the businesses in the CBD. It is clear from the last proposal that the business community want genuine consultation and input to any Council Plan prior to its implementation.

A forum for developers and potential developers will be organised for January. Details of the time and location will be announced in the next two weeks. I am keen to hear the positive stories as well as the obstacles that are influencing development in the shire. It should be noted that anyone who has received an approved Development Application can now contact Council to have the conditions reviewed. I will also be inviting any business thinking of expanding in the shire or setting up to make an appointment to meet with me and staff if available.

I am hoping our early discussions with Barnaby Joyce MP and his office will be in relation to mobile phone and internet access in the shire. We are fortunate to have a couple of Councillors who also have great experience with telecommunications. I am also keen to understand what role the expanding satellite network will play and whether it is affordable. All sectors of our economy would benefit from upgraded services.

The new Council is excited to work with Adam Marshall MP as we seek to maximise the benefits for Uralla Shire. I have appreciated his guidance and experience, and am confident his support will continue. Let me join the thousands of people who have expressed their utter disbelief Adam has been omitted from the new cabinet. It is a shame when performance and hard work give way to politics. Every dog has its day!!

The campaign meetings raised a number of matters for the new Uralla Local Traffic Committee to review, including the speed limits on Plane Avenue, Gostwyck

Road (up to McCrossin Street), Warwick Street and at Invergowrie. Intersections to be reviewed include the Maitland Street/Salisbury (Thunderbolts Way) and the Maitland Street/King Street intersection. With the excellent work at the top of Heagney's Hill on the Walcha Road, the committee will now need to review the bottom corner and the Talisker Road intersection. Please contact me if you are aware of other traffic blackspots that should be considered.

One of my initiatives to add to the sense of all being on the same team is to encourage all staff and Councillors to openly discuss items of interest. All Councillors are aware they cannot direct staff or influence developments that they have an interest in. I am acutely aware that the Council staff and their families represent a significant part of the shire's population and can provide valuable information for the elected members.

Councillors will include discussions on the most suitable day and time for meetings. If special meetings are required, then the meeting could be held in the evening to allow as many members of the public to attend as possible. Please be advised that I can be contacted by the details shown below.

I am keen to arrange regular meetings at a suitable time in the Council's Mayor's Office.

M: 0434 244 774  
E:robertbell1055@hotmail.com  
**Robert Bell,**  
**Uralla Shire Resident**





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#### **Back Issues Wanted - Wordsworth**

Wanted for a reference set, the original Wordsworth from 1989-1991, issues 9, 10, 11, 13, 16 to 23, 25 to 27.  
Please contact Ross at the bookshop 0412 701 402.

# Vive Uralla

An article written for the Uralla Times during the Back-to-Uralla Week celebrations in 1925 - with a little help from Lawson and Tennyson.

Imagine a bark humpy standing beside the highway — a bumpy mailcoach, drawn by fast horses, passing along the dusty roads that lead to anywhere. Hear the shouts of the passengers as they bid good-bye to their friends who are left, and the cheery crack of whips, that tell of more brave men who dared risk the perils of travelling.

'A hundred miles shall see to-night the lights of Cobb & Co.' Imagine the excitement caused by some whisper of the famous Thunderbolt. Old men, who were in reality not so old, would breathe the words in the ears of their friends out of very fear, and children would run hurriedly indoors.

But to-day we have a different view of things. In place of the bark humpy, we see a long line of commodious business and dwelling houses that stand by the roadside. Mail coaches are gone, and Thunderbolt is no more. Here and there, perhaps, we hear wild tales grown strong by the passage of time, concerning old days in the lonely camps of some prospector. But we cannot appreciate them, for we do not know. Where the coaches of Cobb & Co., rattled along the roads, we see the modern automobile. No more do the miners arrive on the steaming horses, fresh, from the creeks.

And the old men — the men who have seen Uralla in the hard days — pass in our midst to the sound of music and shouting. Stately pines that line the streets form an impregnable bodyguard, as the wind stirs the gay bunting into motion.

Time has called parade. This is a day that marks the dawning of a new era in the history of the district, and now is the time for all good men to come to its aid, and stand by it.

And the shades of old days bloom up again, compelling the individual to realise that Uralla has not been left behind, but is advancing with the times.

'Yet I doubt not through the ages one increasing purpose runs,

And the minds of men are widened with the progress of the suns.'

Kay Adams, Uralla History Hub

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What are the best things about Uralla Shire & how can we make it even better?



## HAVE YOUR SAY



Residents are encouraged to 'write a postcard' to contribute to the new Uralla Shire Community Strategic Plan. Postcards are located at general stores around the Shire, along with Bundarra Library, Uralla Library and Customer Service Centre.

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I look forward to talking to you, Kyle



# Christmas Message for 2021

AS the sun sets on another incredibly tough year – one many would like to forget – this Christmas let's stop, take stock of all we have and give thanks for the love and friendship of those, near or far, who we hold dear.

The impact that COVID-19 has had on the lives of Northern Tablelands' residents will be felt for a long time. I want to sincerely thank the entire region for its perseverance and resilience throughout the pandemic. Because of the outstanding effort of people rolling up their sleeves and getting vaccinated, the lockdowns which closed businesses, kept families and friends apart and slammed shut State borders are now a thing of the past.

Last year, there were many sitting around their Christmas table with empty chairs where our loved ones from afar should have been sitting.

Along with reunions of family and friends I also hope this festive season delivers a much needed boost to local retail and accommodation providers who really have done it tough over the last five months.

Our paddocks are lush with grass, and our water storages overflowing and I am incredibly optimistic about the year ahead.

I would encourage those who are leaving their Christmas food and present shopping to the last minute to please buy local. This festive season provides us all with a fantastic opportunity to help our local small businesses get ahead.

Next year will see progress made on significant region-shaping projects including the Moree Special Activation Precinct (SAP), Glen Innes and Moree Hospital redevelopments and millions of dollars in local road upgrades.

I personally am excited by what is to come, but am also looking forward to an extended break (my first in many years) to get away and recharge the batteries.

My Armidale and Moree electorate offices will be closed from Christmas Eve and will re-open early in the New Year and my staff joins with me in wishing all Northern Tablelands residents a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a safe, prosperous and wet 2022.

**Adam Marshall MP**  
**Member for Northern Tablelands**

## Fuel Watch 26th December 2021

	ULP	Diesel
Mobil	159.9	161.9
Puma	159.7	163.7
BP	166.9	169.9
Invergowrie	164.0	160.0
Kingstown	169.9	165.9



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**Phone:** 02 6752 5002

**Mail:** PO Box 77, Armidale NSW 2350

**Facebook:** [adammarshallmp](https://www.facebook.com/adammarshallmp)

**Email:** [northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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Authorised by Adam Marshall MP, Member for Northern Tablelands. Funded using parliamentary entitlements. September, 2021.

# Updated COVID-19 Restrictions

Changes are being made to a number of COVID-19 restrictions. These measures will help protect our community against the evolving Omicron COVID-19 outbreak and support businesses to stay open.

## Working from home

Please encourage your staff to work from home over the holiday season where possible.

## QR code check-ins

From 27 December, mandatory QR code check-ins will be extended to include hospitality and retail businesses.

You'll need to display your QR code check-ins for all customers, staff, contractors and delivery people to check-in until 27 January 2022.

COVID Safe registered businesses don't need to reapply for a new QR code. Simply reprint or reuse your previous QR code check-in poster or retrieve it from nsw.gov.au.

## Face masks rules

From 12:01am Friday 24 December, face masks will be required in all indoor business settings. This applies to hospitality staff, workplaces, public transport and indoor common areas of strata buildings.

This rule will be in place until 27 January 2022.

## Hospitality density limits

From 27 December, density limits of 1 person per 2 sqm will apply for indoor hospitality settings including pubs, clubs, restaurants and cafes. This will remain until 27 January 2022.

Density limits will not apply to outdoor settings.

**NSW Government**

**24/12/2021**

## Uralla Swimming Pool

### Opening Hours

Monday - Friday

6.00am - 8.00am & 12.00noon - 6.00pm

Weekends

12.00noon - 6.00pm

Admittance Fees: Adult \$4.00 Child \$2.50

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Deadline for the next edition is  
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# Uralla Bowling Club

## Greens to Light Up

Uralla Bowling and Recreation Club will roll into 2022 with its sight set on increasing its membership and hours of play on its two grass greens, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall today announcing a \$272,928 State Government-funded lighting upgrade.

The significant funding windfall has been made possible by Round 4 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund. Mr Marshall said lighting the lawn bowling greens would give Uralla residents access to another quality after-hours sport.

"With such busy schedules we all know how hard it can be to juggle work, life and still find the time for sport and recreation," Mr Marshall said.

"In order to give flexibility to the time when lawn bowls competition can be played Uralla Bowlo will install eight light poles with LED lights around its two greens. It's anticipated the addition of lighting will encourage more people to participate in lawn bowls. In particular the club is targeting working women and women that want to play sport but are no longer physically able to participate in more robust activities."

"By having the ability to run evening competitions the club will be able to attract more players outside normal working hours and on weekends. Right across the region sport and recreation clubs are thinking outside the box and coming up with innovative ways to improve their facilities and get new people through their doors. The lighting will also open up opportunity for charity and fundraising bowling events after hours and well into the evening."

"I congratulate Uralla Bowlo on securing this funding and look forward to seeing twilight bowls becoming a regular fixture on the club's calendar."

Uralla Bowling and Recreation Club President Allan Rummery said lighting over the greens could triple the club's female and male playing membership.

"This project is about ensuring our club is financially viable for the future," Mr Rummery said. "Clubs must move forward or they will fade away. Uralla Bowling and Recreation Club is going from strength to strength and the boost given by the installation of lights by this project will

help us attract and keep members. It will be particularly significant for the women's bowling club who have not been able to attract younger members, who, due to family commitments, cannot participate at weekends and can only get away after work. There are about 50 active bowlers in the Uralla community and I don't think it is inconceivable that through this project we could double or even triple this number of participants. We also hope these improvements may make Uralla Bowling Club a more attractive venue for regional and zone competitions which will bring valuable economic stimulus to our town."

"I want to sincerely thank Adam and the State Government for their involvement with this project and we look forward to switching the lights on hopefully by August next year."



Celebrating a funding windfall to light up Uralla Bowling and Recreation Club's two bowling greens, members Pauline Crouch, Lindsay Ward, Col Dade, Bob Crouch, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, President Allan Rummery, Secretary Manager Helen Avery, Debra Van den Hoogen, April Fulton and Phyllis Dade.

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# Community Calendar

Please email [urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto:urallawordsworth@gmail.com) if you have an event or meeting for the Uralla Shire

## Please check with Event Organisers about the Status of Listed Events

**Uralla Rotary Club** meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6.15pm at the Uralla Bowling Club, dinner optional after the meeting

**Uralla Lions Club** meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 5/5.30 in the CWA Rooms

**Uralla Fire & Rescue** meet on Tuesday nights at the Uralla Fire Station from 6-7.30pm

**Uralla CWA** meets on the 4th Friday of each month at 10am at CWA Rooms in the Literary Institute

**Uralla Computer Bank** is open Mon, Tues & Thurs from 9.30am – 3.30pm at Uralla Shire Waste Depot

**Uralla Anglican Church** meets at 10am each Sunday for worship, prayer, fellowship and Johnno's (kid's programme) in Park Street

**Uralla Hospital Auxillary** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 2pm, CWA Rooms in the Literary Institute

**Uralla Show Society** meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm at the Uralla Showgrounds

**Uralla Shire Business Chamber** meets 1st Thursday of each month at 6pm at the Uralla Bowliing Club

**Uralla Town & Environs Committee** meets on the second Monday of each quarter from 6-7pm in the Uralla Shire Council Chambers

**Uralla Tennis** Term 4 Social tennis 6:30pm Tuesdays. Free court hire. Go to [www.play.tennis.com/court-hire/](http://www.play.tennis.com/court-hire/) to book a court.

**Uralla Men's Shed** is open each Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am - 1pm in the Old Scout Hall, Uralla North Rd (just off the Bundarra Road).

**Uralla Auto Club Inc.** meets at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at The Bowling Club.

**Uralla Red Cross** meets on the first Friday of each month at 2pm in the CWA rooms in the Literary Institute opposite Foodworks

**Uralla Historical Society** meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5pm at McCrossin's Mill

**Uralla Brewery Book Club** meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5pm at the Brewery

**Uralla RSL Sub-Branch** meets the last Sunday of the month at 10.30am at the RSL Rooms, The Uralla Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street, all veterans welcome.

**Uralla RSL Sub-Branch Veterans and Families Drop in Centre.** Open to all Veterans and their families, each Thursday 10am until 12pm at the RSL Rooms, The Uralla Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street.

**Uralla Women's Bowling Club** 10am Wednesday for Club bowls. Mixed Social Bowls on Sunday mornings, all welcome, Bistro lunch available.

**Uralla Food Pantry**, Mondays 11am - 2pm, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. Good range dry goods, and fruit/veg. Fill a supermarket coloured bag \$15. New members welcome. Further information from the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, Ph: 6778 3277 or email : [office@unc.org.au](mailto:office@unc.org.au)

Donations welcomed.

**Freemasons (Masonic Lodge of Peace #120, Uralla)** meet the 3rd Tuesday each month, interested persons, contact Dennis 0448 576 465 or John 0411 374 334

**Computer Bank New England** Computer Classes are each Friday from 9am - 12noon at the Uralla Community Centre. \$5.00 this includes morning tea

**Uralla Tigers Supported Playgroup** FREE, every Wednesday during school terms, 10am - 12pm, St Joseph's Primary School, contact Sue on 0419149244 or Geneva on 0430440171

## Events for December - January

**Uralla Arts** Chopper Morton performs at McCrossin's Mill Saturday 22 January 2022 7.30pm



**Seasons  
of New England** The Seasons Store is open again from 3rd January.

Happy New Year!

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## Uralla Grants round two delivers holiday cheers

The second round of Uralla Grants funding has been awarded to a dozen local projects and events, adding some extra good news before the festive holiday season.

Projects targeting tree planting, community events and upgrades to local pre-school, sporting and aged care facilities were selected for funding by the Community Reference Group overseeing the program.

In total up to \$50,000 was awarded under the New England Solar Farm's Community Benefit Sharing Initiative.

The community funding was immediately put to good use, via a \$5,000 Uralla Grant to the Uralla Fairy Festival held earlier in the month.

New England Solar Farm Construction Director Tim Greenaway thanked everyone who applied for funding under the program.

For a full list of the Uralla Grants recipients go to:  
[www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au](http://www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au)



## Construction update

Road upgrade work is expected to be underway again this week, after wet weather continued to affect progress along Barleyfields Rd and the intersection with the New England Highway. With dry conditions forecast this week, it is expected that current road closures and speed reductions will conclude early in the new year.

Early site works are progressing for the substation and switchyard projects on the solar farm site as well as site fencing works.



The New England Solar Farm extended team would like to wish our local community all the very best for the festive season. Have a safe and happy holiday.



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**Laura Abbott**  
Community Liaison Officer at Green Light Contractors

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